

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-11, 13-14, 17, 21 and 29-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 17 and 21 are amended; Claims 29-37 are newly added; and Claims 4, 7-9, 12, 15-16, 18-20, 22-25 and 28 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Notice of Allowance dated November 3, 2008, Claims 1-25 and 28 are indicated as allowable. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

Particularly, the Notice of Allowance indicates that the features directed to the “carriage configured to shift an illumination area in a sub-scanning direction, and a support base configured to support and hold the point light source and the light-guiding member together as a unit, and to be attached to the carriage adjustably in the sub-scanning direction ...”, are neither taught, nor rendered obvious, by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1 is not amendment by the present amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as well as Claims 2-3, 5-6, 10-11, 13-14, 17, 21, which dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Further, new Claims 29-37 are added by the present amendment.

New independent Claim 29 recites features similar to those recited in independent Claim 1, but is amended to specify that the illumination device additionally includes “a plurality of point light sources” and “a point light source substrate including the plurality of point light sources aligned in the main scanning direction”, as disclosed in an exemplary

¹ e.g., specification, Figs. 2 and 17 and pp. 34-35.

embodiment at Figs. 2 and 17 of the specification. New independent Claim 29 additionally recites that the illumination device includes “a carriage configured to shift an illumination area in a sub-scanning direction; and a support base configured to hold the point light source substrate and the light-guiding member, and to be attached to the carriage adjustably in the sub-scanning direction.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent Claim 29, as well as new Claims 30-34, which depend therefrom, patentably defines over the applied references.

New independent Claim 35 is also presented, which recites features similar to those recited in independent Claim 1, with the exception of “wherein an illumination area generated by the light irradiated from the point light source has a high illuminance distribution range of a substantially constant illuminance ...” Thus, new independent Claim 35 also recites that features directed to the carriage and support base, which are indicated in the Notice of Allowance as not being taught by the applied references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent Claim 35, as well as new Claims 36 and 37, which depend therefrom, patentably define over the applied references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-11, 13-14, 17, 21 and 29-37 patentably define over the applied references and are in condition for formal allowance.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/820,734

Reply to the Notice of Allowance of November 3, 2008

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

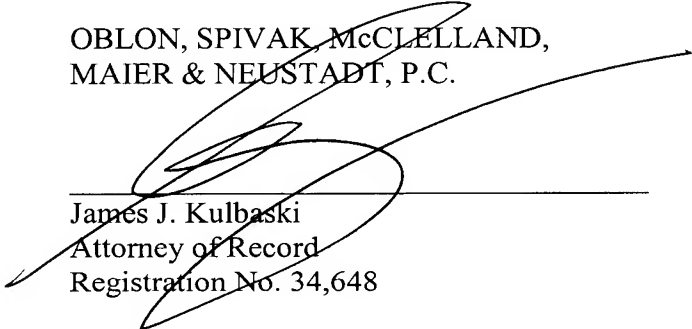
Respectfully submitted,

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